



The Hour

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42nd St., New York
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SENATOR REYNOLDS AND ANTI-SEMITISM

His Alien-Baiting Serves Several Purposes

Like many prominent U. S. fascists, Senator Robert R. Reynolds has lately taken to proclaiming his love for Democracy and his hatred for Nazism. But he has by no means ceased indulging in Nazi practises. It is true that because of the increasing unpopularity of openly anti-democratic activities, the Senator from North Carolina is somewhat camouflaging his normal bent. He no longer defends Hitler and Mussolini on the floor of the Senate. He no longer incorporates into the Congressional Record anti-Semitic diatribes borrowed from the notorious Italian agent, Domenico Trombetta. But the disguise is thin and behind it the Senator's familiar fascistic features are evident.

On June 15 of this year, The Hour observed "It is ... significant that the staunchest and most 'patriotic' supporters of today's anti-alien movement were yesterday among the most enthusiastic endorsers of the National Socialist Movement." The Hour also pointed out that "it is a short step from anti-alienism to anti-Semitism," and that most American Fifth Columnists had already taken that step. Foremost among the alien-baiters in this country at that time was Senator Robert R. Reynolds. He has kept his position. And it is interesting to observe how his present attacks on the foreign-born are combined with the baiting of the Jewish people.

"Refugees," "Aliens" and "Foreigners"

In the current issue of his publication, The American Vindicator, Senator Reynolds features on the front page a long article with the bold headline, "Rabbi Seeks Admission Of One Million War Refugees ... Wants Congress Funds To Settle Aliens In U. S." The article, which carefully avoids mention of the many non-sectarian refugee agencies, seeks to give the impression that Jews alone are eager to bring refugees to this country. The article itself does not state that the effort to aid refugees is un-American, but this implication is made clear by the third plank in The American Vindicator's platform:

"Stop all immigration for ten years so that our own may have an opportunity to work. With more than ten million Americans unemployed and millions working

only part time why shouldn't we provide jobs for American citizens? No other country upon the face of the earth permits aliens to usurp the jobs belonging to its citizens."

In order to drive the point home, Senator Reynolds include in his paper such statements as these,

"Too many high and prominent positions are held by foreigners. They are fast becoming the predominant factor in industry and influence. ... Why should this be? We should not give our jobs to foreigners; neither should Uncle Sam build larders to feed those who come here to live under the American Flag. ... All America for Americans and American ways. Let all Europe settle her own wars and our nation send the aliens back to help them. ... No more refugees on our soil. ..."

In short, says Senator Reynolds, the Jewish people are trying to flood the country with refugees and this is an un-American endeavor, aimed at the very welfare of the nation. The Senator makes every effort to associate the Jewish people in the minds of his readers with "aliens" who "usurp the jobs," and "foreigners ... who come here to live under the American Flag." He then advocates the deportation of these "foreigners."

It cannot be said that Senator Robert R. Reynolds is as blatantly anti-Semitic in The American Vindicator as is the Nazi Julius Streicher in Der Stuermer. The Senator, because of the exigencies of the situation is a little more subtle. But his aim is the same.

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THE POLITICS OF PROFESSOR FENLON

Recently Edward I. Fenlon, Professor of Philosophy at Brooklyn College, appeared as a voluntary witness before the Rapp-Coudert Legislative Committee investigating subversive activities in New York City schools. According to material that The Hour has on file, Professor Fenlon's interest in "defending democracy" is of rather recent origin. In the past, his inclination has been toward defending fascism. On March 4 1939, for example, in a letter to the Brooklyn Tablet, Professor Fenlon stated:

"Who is the authority among us to say that Franco is a Fascist? Franco denies that he is a fascist. And even so, would that necessarily make him or his cause vicious? Who can ascribe any fixed set of offensive principles to Fascist philosophy? Is not Fascism as flexible as monarchism might be, or as 'democracy' might be?"

On January 20, 1940, Professor Fenlon in a speech before the Holy Name Society, Brooklyn, New York, summed up his contempt for democracy in the following remarks:

"Under Louis IX, under a monarch, the essence of democracy existed, for government of whatever type is much like cake. Good cake is good cake no matter its shape. What is our point? I would like to see everyone wary when it comes to this ceaseless, this inane, talk concerning 'democracy.' This nonsensical talk that we now get for breakfast, dinner and supper. Who started all this talk and what does it signify? If you don't know, I am not at all conceited in saying that I certainly do. It was started and is kept alive by our Communist brethren and their so-called 'Liberal' friends. And what does it signify? Nothing. It is a mere rebellious, anarchistic, paganistic shibboleth."

Professor Fenlon apparently makes a hobby of offering information to agencies investigating subversive activities in this country. He also appeared as witness before the Dies Committee Investigating un-American Activities. But from Professor Fenlon's own words, it would seem that he himself could stand some investigating.

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U. S. SPOKESMAN FOR MUSSOLINI

A gentleman by the name of Luigi Criscuolo has recently come to the defense of Generoso Pope, wealthy New York contractor and publisher of two fascistic Italian dailies. When the appointment of Mr. Pope to one of New York City's thirteen draft boards was being publicly protested by various individuals and publications (see The Hour for November 23), an editorial in the Herald-Tribune stated that despite Mr. Pope's denial of being friendly toward fascism, "he has failed to make that clear in his work with [his newspaper] Il Progresso Italo-Americano." It was in answer to this editorial that Luigi Criscuolo took up the cudgels for Mr. Pope.

Mr. Criscuolo sent the Tribune a lengthy letter which was printed by that paper on November 17. The letter, declaring that "the insinuations of the New York Herald Tribune, as those of Dr. Neff, ... are as unfounded as they are malicious," pictured Mr. Pope as being little short of a Galahad of Democracy.

Who Is Luigi Criscuolo?

Mr. Criscuolo is an investment banker, whose present address is 50 Broad Street, New York City. His eagerness to protect Mr. Pope is in itself significant, since Mr. Criscuolo has for many years been a tireless defender of the cause of Mussolini and of fascism in general.

In January, 1929, for example, Mr. Criscuolo delivered a lecture to the American Academy of Political Social Science in Philadelphia in which he enumerated the "miracles" wrought by the Fascist regime in Italy. Throughout the early 1930's he was a consistent supporter of Italian foreign policy and in October, 1936, he issued a public statement condoning Il Duce's stand on the Ethiopian question. In October, 1938, he attacked Justice Costello for protesting to Mussolini against anti-Semitic measures, and the following month he publicly defended Italy's racial and foreign policies. As late as June, 1940, he was expressing sympathy with the Italian role in the present war.

Mr. Criscuolo's assistance to Italian fascism has not been limited to propaganda activity. In the late 1920's he was instrumental in floating Italian loans in the United States. In this and other efforts he won the reputation of being something of a liaison man between Il Duce and certain financial groups in this country. For services rendered, he was decorated by Mussolini in 1931 with the Constantian Order of St. George.

Current Activities of Criscuolo

On November 16, 1940, the New York Catholic News carried an article reporting in detail Criscuolo's refutation of points made by Professor Salvemini, the well-known anti-fascist, in his recent survey on Italian Fascist propaganda in the United States. The News stated that Mr. Criscuolo, "a Grand Officer in the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre," is "one of the most prominent Italians in New York." On November 23, the Brooklyn Tablet carried a long article by Mr. Criscuolo himself, attacking Professor Salvemini's work.

It is pertinent that this "prominent" Italian was until 1938 a co-editor of L'Impero, a rabidly anti-democratic magazine which flaunted the fascist emblem. Working closely with Mr. Criscuolo on L'Impero was Chevalier Macaluso, registered Italian agent and present secretary of the official Italian organization, Italians Abroad.

In his letter to the New York Herald-Tribune, Mr. Criscuolo stated:

"I am forced to reply to the accusations, not in defense of Mr. Pope, but in defense of millions of Italo-Americans whose loyalty is thus placed under suspicion by the accusation."

It is a typical trick of Italian fascist propagandists in this country to pretend they represent the Italian-American community as a whole. But the vast majority of Italian-Americans, who are staunchly pro-democratic, repudiate these fascist spokesmen. The Italian-Americans do not want and have no need of being "defended" by the Luigi Criscuolos and the Generos Popes.